

Christmas gifts from Wycombe!

**Sutton United 4,
Wycombe Wanderers 1**

Christmas is a time for giving and Wycombe Wanderers lived-up to this seasonal tradition by presenting two gift goals to happy recipients Sutton United, in the first 90 seconds on Saturday.

For the first 20 minutes Sutton produced the high quality of football which won them the Isthmian crown last season. But after their opening blitz the champions gave a far from impressive display, and Wycombe certainly had a number of chances to draw level, if not win, in the second period.

In the first minute Maskell dropped a cross from Howard at the feet of Hutchins, who made no mistake. Thirty seconds later Brookes raced past Beck and his cross was headed home by Hutchins.

Wanderers never really recovered from this double blow, although they tried gallantly to get back into the game. But Sutton were not finished, and in the 19th minute Gamblin's cross was nodded in by the ever-alert Hutchins, to complete his hat-trick.

GROPING MASKELL

Sutton in the opening period moved off the ball with danger and found the empty spaces particularly well. In the 24th minute Hutchins, with the Wycombe defence wide open, streaked away to supply Howard with a low cross, who turned the ball past the groping Maskell.

Although Maskell was at fault for the first two he came to Wanderers' rescue on a number of occasions with a series of fine saves. Peter Eyres re-appeared in the defence at left-back because Vince Faulkner was unavailable for selection.

Horseman pulled a goal back in the 28th minute when he flicked home a Worley corner. It was noticeable at this stage that Sutton had lost their early composure and were struggling to co-ordinate as a team.

In a rather undistinguished second half, during which Wycombe deployed the offside trap, Merrick and Horseman wasted glorious opportunities of causing an upset.

Wycombe: J. Maskell; J. Beck, P. Eyres; B. Baker, I. Rundle, C. Gale; L. Worley, K. Samuels, L. Merrick, A. Horseman, S. Holmes.

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WITHOUT AN Isthmian League victory since October, Wycombe never recovered from defensive blunders that gave Sutton two goals in the first 90 seconds. Centre forward Hutchins netted both, tapping the first home after goalkeeper Maskell had dropped the ball, and heading the second when unmarked.

Hutchins completed his hat-trick with a flying header, and later laid on the pass for Howard to score a fourth. Horseman replied for Wycombe, who held Sutton by liberal use of the offside trap after the interval. Worley and Horseman played well in Wycombe's attack.